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**National Task Force
for the Cultural Heritage
Disaster Risk Mitigation Network
Japan**

Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan,
Grants-in-Aid for Promotion of Culture and Arts
(Project to Support Art Museums and History Museums in Priority Areas)



Message from the President



Paintings being evacuated from Rikuzentakata City Museum, Iwate Prefecture, July 2011.

The National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation (CH-DRM Net), Japan began in July 2014 with the goal of constructing a national network to help protect cultural heritage from the risk of disasters. This initiative was based on earlier activities by the Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku and Related Disasters, instigated in March 2011.

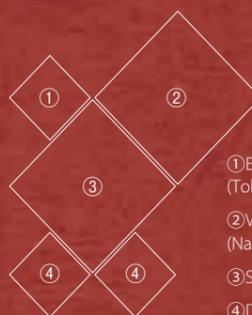
During the past four years, participation in the CH-DRM Network has steadily increased and improved to comprise 24 entities, including Japanese museums, libraries, archives and academic societies. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude for the support received from organizations in a wide range of fields, including local government agencies and regional historical materials networks.

Unfortunately, during the same period, there have been a number of natural disasters including torrential rains in Kanto and Tohoku in 2015, the Kumamoto Earthquakes and Tottori Earthquake in 2016, and torrential rains in northern Kyushu in 2017. The formulation of measures to mitigate cultural heritage disaster risk and the construction of a salvage system for cultural heritage from disaster areas are urgent issues. In response, we are striving to further strengthen our cooperation with related organizations such as the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and to promote and strengthen our CH-DRM Net activities.

I look forward to your kind support and cooperation in protecting and preserving Japan's important cultural heritage into the future.

November 2017
 Chair, Headquarters of the National Task Force for the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net), Japan
 President, National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH), Independent Administrative Institution
 Keiji Matsumura

Protecting and Transmitting Cultural Heritage into the Future



- ① Executive Committee of the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (Tokyo National Museum, 2017).
- ② Vacuum freeze dryers used to dry water damaged paper materials such as ancient documents (Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties).
- ③ Salvage of water damaged administrative documents at Joso City Hall, Ibaraki Prefecture (2015).
- ④ Documentation of intangible cultural heritage in specific regions (Photo: Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)

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Purpose and Context of CH-DRM Net Activities



Artwork being carried out of the Ishinomaki Cultural Center, Miyagi Prefecture, April 2011.

CH-DRM Net comprises three main components:

- (1) One component, which is operated in accordance with the governmental policy framework of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, prefectures, and municipalities as stipulated by the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, deals with the day-to-day conservation and management of cultural heritage as well as the implementation of reporting, information sharing, and salvage activities during emergencies.
- (2) A second component comprises prefectural associations of museums, libraries, and archives, as well as regional alliances such as historical materials networks that are formed through the cooperation of researchers in such areas as history and anthropology.
- (3) A third component is the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net, mostly comprising stakeholder organizations that participated in the Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011

Earthquake off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku and Related Disasters. (It has 24 participating organizations as of November 2017).

Ideally, disaster risk mitigation for cultural heritage focuses first on precautionary measures that prevent or mitigate damage to cultural heritage in unfortunate circumstances and deploys professionals with appropriate expertise who can take swift action to assess the extent of damage, and to design and implement salvage activities.

In order to achieve these goals, the National Task Force for CH-DRM Net conducts research on technical issues related to disaster risk mitigation for cultural heritage and strives to raise awareness about appropriate methods. The Task Force is also integrating and ensuring the functionality of the network. In this way, the Task Force seeks to establish a national framework for cultural heritage disaster risk mitigation.

in preparation for natural disasters large and small predicted to occur in the future. This opinion was released as a recommendation of the symposium. In response, the Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA) and NICH held a review. In July 2014, the National Task Force for the Japanese Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net) was organized with the support of the ACA's Grants-in-Aid for Promotion of Culture and Arts (Project to Support Art Museums and History Museums in Priority Areas).

NICH next established the Headquarters of the National Task Force for CH-DRM Net, whose Chair is the President of NICH and whose Members are Directors of NICH museums and research institutes. It then established a Secretariat Office of the National Task Force for CH-DRM Net under the supervision of the Headquarters. The National Task Force is staffed by researchers from NICH institutions who hold adjunct appointments with the Task Force.

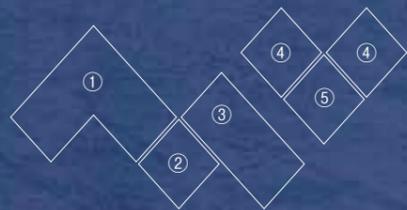
*Disaster-Affected Cultural Properties Salvage Operations (better known as "Cultural Properties Salvage Operations"), under the auspices of the Agency for Cultural Affairs: These operations are instigated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs when works of art and other cultural properties are affected by natural disasters. They facilitate emergency conservation of cultural heritage and protection of cultural heritage from disposal, loss, and theft in accordance with the scale and type of disaster. (Operations were first organized after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995; they also operated for a two-year period after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. More recently, Operations were conducted after the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes.)

The Quest to Develop a Framework for Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation

An enormous amount of cultural heritage was damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunamis of March 2011. The explosions at nuclear power plants forced citizens to evacuate the disaster region leaving behind numerous cultural properties. At the request of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, a Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Earthquake off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku and Related Disasters (Secretariat: Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, NICH) was formed of 13 arts and culture organizational stakeholders, including the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH), who began Cultural Properties Salvage Efforts. In the four prefectures of Miyagi, Iwate, Ibaraki, and Fukushima, the Committee rescued and preserved artworks, natural history samples, official documents, books and other documents that chronicle regional history and culture.*

In March 2013, the Committee was dissolved after two years of activities, and a symposium was held outlining its activities. At the symposium, attendees called for the preservation of the Committee framework

- ① Activities to preserve documentation of intangible cultural heritage. Video documentation of traditional techniques (Photo: Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties).
- ②④ Numerous experts and volunteers gathered from throughout Japan in order to organize disaster-affected documents from Joso City.
- ③ Surveys of cultural heritage located in specific regions (Kyushu National Museum).
- ⑤ Vacuum freeze dryers in the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties.



Activities



Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net. Meetings are held biannually, chaired by the President of NICH.

Goals of the National Task Force for CH-DRM Net

1. Framework Development

- (1) The Task Force strives to deepen public understanding for regional cultural heritage.
- (2) When a natural disaster occurs, it quickly gathers information about affected cultural heritage and conducts surveys or inventories.
- (3) It reviews the partnerships and cooperation necessary to employ optimal methods for the salvage, conservation, and storage of cultural heritage in the disaster areas.
- (4) It develops a large-scale system for mutual cooperation among owners of cultural heritage, local citizens, stakeholder organizations, groups and experts, local government agencies, and the national government.

2. Research

- (1) The Task Force conducts research on types of disaster mitigation, rescue, and conservation for cultural heritage, and then disseminates information on the results of those studies.
- (2) It conducts research on diagnosing deterioration, conservation environment, stabilization measures, and conservation for disaster-affected cultural heritage, and utilizes the results of these studies in onsite operations as appropriate.
- (3) It conducts research on such issues as disaster risk mitigation for intangible cultural heritage and preservation of cultural heritage after disasters.

3. Capacity Building and the Release and Dissemination of Information

- (1) The Task Force utilizes the results of research studies and methods and techniques from related groups and experts in order to try and train professionals capable of carrying out the disaster risk mitigation and salvage of cultural heritage. It provides trainings to officials of local government agencies.
- (2) It holds lectures and symposia to deepen understanding among regional residents of cultural heritage disaster risk mitigation and to heighten awareness of ongoing conservation of regional cultural heritage.

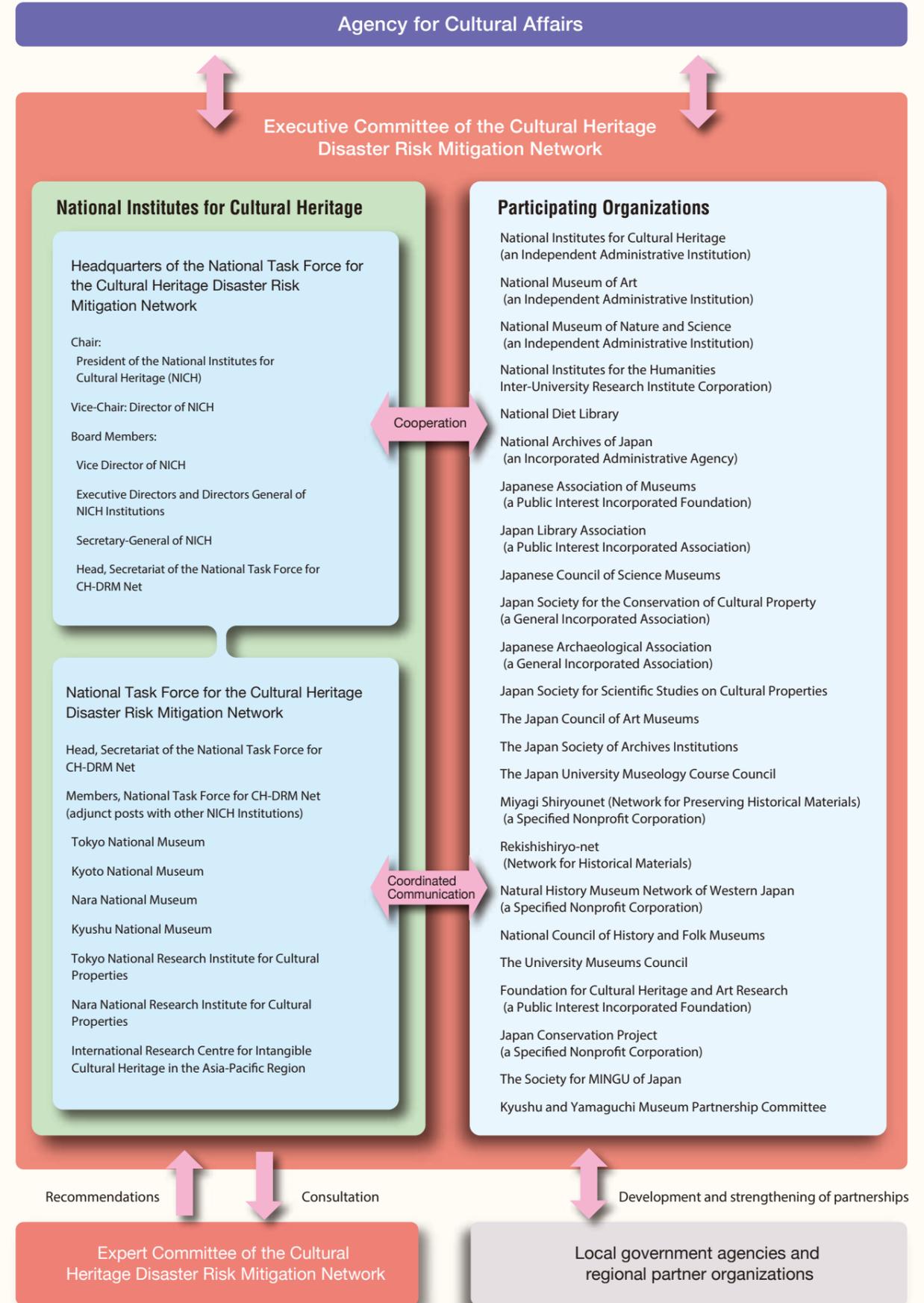
Organizations

About the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net

In order to achieve shared understanding about the necessity to construct a network and to facilitate the implementation of future activities, the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) contacted associated organizations and other stakeholder organizations related to cultural heritage and disaster risk mitigation (with a focus on former participants in the Committee for

Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Earthquake off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku and Related Disasters) and established the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net.

The 24 groups listed on next page currently participate in the Executive Committee. NICH is seeking additional participation from other organizations that agree with the goals of the Task Force.



(as of November 2017)

A Partnership Framework for Protecting Cultural Heritage

Headquarters of the National Task Force for CH-DRM Net

The Headquarters are located within the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage. The President of NICH serves as Chair of the Headquarters, and members of the Headquarters comprise the directors and other staff members from the seven NICH institutions. The Headquarters organizes meetings on CH-DRM Net. Under the Headquarters is the Secretariat Office of the National Task Force for CH-DRM Net. Researchers from NICH institutions hold adjunct positions on the Task Force and conduct various activities to enhance the network.

Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net

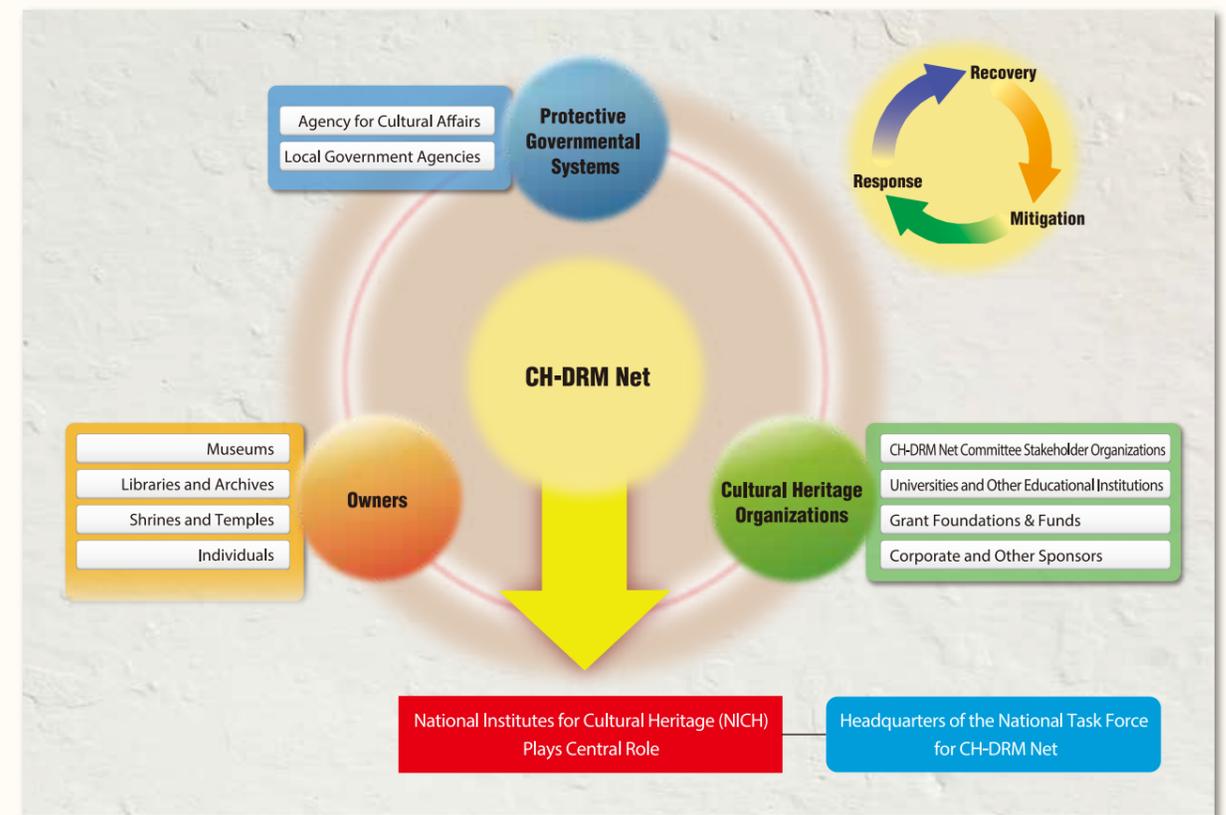
The Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net includes stakeholder organizations who formerly participated in the Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Earthquake off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku and Related Disasters. Executive Committee Meetings are also attended by government representatives from the Agency for Cultural Affairs. These meetings provide information on the disaster risk mitigation activities of each group and review issues such as how to ensure the functionality and effective mobilization of the entire network at the time of actual natural disasters. Since the establishment of the National Task Force, the Executive Committee has promptly collected information on natural disasters through the networks of its members and is establishing systems for communicating this information to the Secretariat Office of the National Task Force for CH-DRM Net.

Expert Committee of CH-DRM Net

The Expert Committee of CH-DRM Net was established in order to solicit expertise on building a cultural heritage disaster risk mitigation network from professionals involved in cultural heritage disaster risk mitigation, salvage, and related areas and those who possess extensive academic experience on related issues. Currently, the Expert Committee is composed of 19 individuals who meet twice per year.

- ① Debriefing session on torrential rains in Kanto and Tohoku in September 2015 "Debriefing Session on Emergency Aid! The Salvage and Restoration of Water Damaged Administrative Documents in Joso City" (Joso City; University of Tsukuba Research Center for Knowledge Communities; Ibaraki Network for Rescue and Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Historical Documents, 2015)
- ②④ On-site documentation of intangible cultural heritage being captured on camera by multimedia teams.
- ③ Scenes from the salvage of administrative documents from disaster areas in Joso City. Subsequent treatment of the materials have continued thereafter.
- ⑤ Cultural Properties Salvage Operations stipulated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs after the Kumamoto Earthquakes (2016).
- ⑥ Documents from the disaster areas were temporarily frozen to prevent further degradation before treatment could begin.

1. Framework Development



Activities to Strengthen Regional Networks of Communication

The National Task Force for CH-DRM Net proactively publicizes and promotes participation in debriefings, research projects, information sharing sessions, and regional networking meetings in various localities around Japan to prefectural and municipal administrative departments; representatives of consortiums or institutions such as museums, libraries, and archives; and regional historical record networks and related organizations. Members work proactively with the various regions of the country to develop networks in order that, if a disaster occurs, information on the status of disaster-caused damage will be shared promptly. In fiscal 2016, Task Force members visited 20 prefectures.

Investigation and Recommendation of "Standards" for the Inclusion of Cultural Heritage in Regional Disaster Management Plans

Local Disaster Management Plans for each prefecture, which are based on the Basic

Act on Disaster Control Measures, contain provisions on "Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation"; however, because the circumstances in each prefecture differ, these plans have not always adequately reflected the specific realities of each locality. The National Task Force for CH-DRM Net has aimed to contribute to regional cultural heritage disaster risk management by incorporating the results of Task Force research into the revisions of these Local Disaster Management Plans that have been carried out following the Great East Japan Earthquake. It has also highlighted cultural heritage-related provisions by rewriting them as independent clauses in these plans. The Task Force has also recommended specific standards for the development of organizational frameworks in non-disaster situations and for initial responses after a disaster occurs.

National Historical Materials Networks Conferences

The Historical Materials Networks (Shiryō Net) in each region are comprised primarily of experts from universities, museums, and

archives who research regional historical documents and archives. At the time of natural disasters, these networks are able to mobilize quickly to carry out salvage activities by utilizing their preexisting relationships with the owners of historical materials.

CH-DRM Net cosponsors National Historical Materials Networks Conferences together with Historical Materials Networks from each region, thereby facilitating and promoting regional disaster risk mitigation and salvage efforts.

Consideration of Potential Hubs for the Storage of Disaster-Affected Cultural Heritage

The Task Force is considering how to secure temporary storage facilities as well as freezer storage facilities for use when cultural heritage is damaged in natural disasters. Such measures must take into consideration the specific conditions of each local region. The Task Force is also reviewing in conjunction with related companies ways to secure the shipping and transport needed for the speedy evacuation of cultural heritage.

2. Research and Surveys



Emergency treatment of paper documents exposed to water leaks.



Administrative documents and other materials exposed to water during torrential rains in Kanto and Tohoku in September 2015. These were salvaged and given emergency treatments such as rinsing (Joso City Hall, 2015).



For documents rescued from disasters such as torrential rains, the Task Force conducts research on emergency treatments utilizing vacuum freeze dryers at the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties.



Cultural heritage rescue activities by the Agency for Cultural Affairs for archival material and other documents damaged by the Kumamoto Earthquakes (2016).

Research Related to Disaster Risk Mitigation, Salvage, Conservation, and Preservation

Sharing of Cultural Heritage Location Information Databases

The Task Force researches and constructs databases for disaster risk mitigation as well as salvage and conservation activities after natural disasters. It also makes recommendations for future cultural heritage databases.

(1) Collection, Organization, and Sharing of Regionally Designated Cultural Heritage

The Agency for Cultural Affairs operates the databases "Cultural Heritage Online" and the "Nationally Designated Cultural Properties Database" for nationally registered cultural heritage; however, sufficient integration is still lacking for regionally designated cultural properties. By constructing and integrating databases related to regional cultural properties including movable and immovable cultural heritage as well as intangible cultural heritage, the Task Force contributes to disaster risk mitigation measures during normal times, and proposes the creation of guidelines for quickly ascertaining damage status after disasters.

(2) Construction of Archeological Site Databases for Historical Natural Disasters

Based on more than 10,000 instances of archeological excavation site data and more than 800 instances of disaster site data, the Task Force is constructing an archeological site database for historical natural disasters. It seeks



Documentation of Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property "Kizumi Wisteria Winnowing Baskets Production Techniques" (Sosa City, Chiba Prefecture. Photo: Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)

out the history of disasters not recorded in literature or other information on natural disasters in ancient times. This information will be used to help mitigate disaster risk in the future.

Research Related to the Documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Natural disasters that inflict severe damage sometimes devastate regional communities. This can lead to the disappearance of annual regional events and locally distinctive occupations. Conversely, reviving those events and restoring local livelihoods and their associated techniques can drive regional revitalization. Creating video records of intangible cultural heritage in advance prevents the loss of intangible cultural heritage during disasters and provides clues for later restoration and recovery.

Creation of Video Records for Cultural Heritage Rescue Activities

Retaining video records of how rescue activities were conducted makes it possible to evaluate activities and utilize the results of such evaluation to implement appropriate activities in the future. Moreover, the Task Force creates easy-to-understand video summaries of conservation methods for affected materials from disaster areas. It also creates written documentation that may be used as reference materials for trainings and educational activities related to cultural heritage disaster risk mitigation, as well as in the event of actual disasters.

Research on the Creation of Maps for the Conservation of Regional Cultural Heritage

In order to protect regional cultural heritage from extinction due to natural disaster, in addition to making comprehensive cultural heritage lists across different fields, the Task Force is creating a model map (digital map) for the conservation of cultural heritage, which organically connects existing documents. This initiative has been made possible by Hirogawa Town and Yuasa Town in Arida District, Wakayama Prefecture, and by cultural property owners and related organizations in each town.

Research on Disaster-Affected Cultural Heritage Conservation Treatments and Preservation Environments as Well as Guideline Formulation and Disclosure

Cultural heritage can incur various types of damage depending on the scale and particulars of a disaster. Because of the need for speedy rescue and conservation treatments, it is greatly helpful to have reference manuals prepared in advance.

Various types of manuals have already been created by numerous related groups and experts; however, depending on the particular types of damage that result from disasters, there are often cases in which existing methods cannot be simply applied without modification. Also, subsequent follow-ups have revealed cases in which the initial conservation treatments have caused additional problems. The National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) has established divisions for researching conservation and restoration techniques at national research institutes and has deployed researchers specializing in cultural heritage conservation science to national museums. Furthermore, with cooperation from external experts, NICH is conducting research on such areas as conservation treatments and the maintenance of conservation environments at temporary facilities. The findings of this research will be used as a basis for policy formation in the future.



Conducting research to consider how to preserve natural history samples and documents damaged by disasters.

Research Contributing to Disaster Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness for Natural Archaeological Relics and Natural History Specimens

By researching disaster-affected zoological and botanical archaeological relics recovered from disaster areas and currently stored in collection facilities in disaster areas, the Task Force considers conservation and management systems for disaster risk mitigation and reduction. The Task Force also collects information on the location of natural history samples at local government agencies and, as a case study, has created a list of shellfish samples held at the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. By doing so, the Project reviews methods of sharing and disclosing location information.

Consideration of Various Issues Related to Natural Disaster-Damaged Cultural Heritage

The Task Force deploys experts and provides technology and information in response to frequently occurring natural disasters. During the torrential rains in Kanto and Tohoku in 2015, numerous experts and volunteers were mobilized to support the salvage of administrative documents at Joso City Hall, which were damaged by flooding. After the Kumamoto Earthquakes in 2016, at the behest of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Task Force implemented Cultural Properties Salvage Operations in fiscal 2016, which were conducted in cooperation with local stakeholders. During that year in Kumamoto, 14,000 objects were rescued from a total of 28 locations. (Reported by the Kumamoto Prefectural Committee for Distribution of Reconstruction Funds to Cultural Properties and Other Objects Damaged by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes). The Task Force continues to make recommendations for management methods from fiscal 2017.

In all cases, the National Task Force for CH-DRM Net works in close cooperation with stakeholder organizations and officials at local government agencies in disaster regions, takes all possible measures to conduct rescue activities using optimal methods, and reviews how best to prepare for subsequent disasters. Knowledge obtained from these activities is discussed and recorded at symposia and research conferences.

Cultivating personnel who perform disaster risk mitigation and rescue activities for cultural heritage

Symposia

Symposia are held to widely increase public recognition of the Task Force and to increase understanding among regional citizens of the importance of cultural heritage disaster risk mitigation. In addition, Japanese experts hold professional conferences in order to deepen understanding of techniques and principles of protection for regional cultural heritage. The Task Force is also working to learn from the experience of foreign experts by holding international symposia aimed at increasing specialized knowledge.

Trainings

In order to increase the number of personnel capable of responding to a natural disaster with expert knowledge on cultural heritage, the Task Force holds trainings for cultural heritage officials at local government agencies and other individuals. It is also effective to provide advance training to firsthand responders such as firefighters and others who might be called to duty such as professional art shipping company handlers who transport cultural properties. The Task Force has also been involved in organizing international training programs providing expertise gained through Japanese CH-DRM efforts to serve as reference for natural disasters in other countries.

Online Information Disclosure

Information on Task Force activities is publically released on the website as it becomes available. This helps introduce the cultural heritage disaster mitigation activities of National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) and other organizations and raises broader awareness about the importance of day-to-day disaster prevention and preparation for cultural heritage, as well as the importance of cooperation during the time of disaster.

<https://ch-drm.nich.go.jp/>



1 Lecture at the Kyoto National Museum as part of the UNESCO Chair Programme on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management (2017).

2 There are many different types of disasters. When removing cultural heritages left in evacuation zones in Fukushima Prefecture, radiation doses were measured out of concern for worker health and impact on storage locations. Also, workers attended lectures on the types and effects of radiation and methods for measuring it (Fukushima Prefecture Cultural Properties Center Shirakawa Hall-Mahoron, 2016. Photo: Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties).

3 Public symposium "Considering Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness with the Community, III" (Kyushu National Museum, 2016).

4 Cooperation with regional volunteers to collect basic information on cultural heritage located in the region (Kyushu National Museum).

5 During disasters, rescue activities take place through cooperation with numerous stakeholders. This training taught appropriate methods for handling cultural properties to firefighters, with the assumption that these first responders might actually do the salvage. (Tokyo National Museum, 2014).

6-7-8 During trainings for cultural heritage officials at local government agencies, practical exercises were held on specialized treatments such as cleaning of ancient documents and other paper document that incurred water damage due to natural disaster (Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, 2016).

Activities

FY 2014

July 23, 2014	Establishment of Headquarters of the National Task Force for the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net)
October 21, 2014	1st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net)
October 29–30, 2014	Cooperation in Rescue Efforts for Cultural Properties (documents from disaster areas in Futaba Town, Fukushima Prefecture)
February 14–15, 2015	National Historical Materials Networks (Shiryo Net) Conference (Kobe)
March 3 to 5, 2015	CH-DRM Net Training (Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)
March 10, 2015	2nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net and the 1st Meeting of the Expert Committee of the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net)
March 10 to 17, 2015	International Expert Meeting, “Cultural Heritage Disaster and Disaster Resilient Communities,” Tokyo Strategy Meeting (Tokyo), within the Third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR)

FY 2015

June 14, 2015	Public Symposium, “Considering Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness with the Community I” (Kyushu National Museum)
August 18, 2015	Training on the stabilization of cultural heritage from disaster areas (Rikuzentakata City Museum)
October 2015	Cooperation in rescue activities for public documents from disaster areas in Joso City due to flooding of the Kinugawa River
November 5, 2015	3rd Meeting of the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net and the 2nd Meeting of the Expert Committee of CH-DRM Net
November 17–20, 2015	National Task Force for CH-DRM Net Training (Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)
November 24–28, 2015	Symposium, “Japan-China-Korea Academic Research Council on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation” (China)
December 6, 2015	Symposium, “Protecting Cultural Heritage from Disaster: The Past, Present and Future of Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation” (Keihanna Open Innovation Center @Kyoto (KICK))
December 13, 2015	“International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation: How Can We Protect Cultural Heritage from Large Scale Disasters—Potential of Blue Shield” (Kyoto National Museum)
January–March 2016	Exhibitions on rescuing cultural heritage from disaster areas (MEXT Information Plaza and Tokyo National Museum)
January 24, 2016	Public Symposium, “Considering Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness with the Community II” (Kyushu National Museum)
February 14–15, 2016	2nd Research Council on the Japan Historical Document Network (Koriyama)
March 11, 2016	4th Meeting of the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net and the 3rd Meeting of the Expert Committee of CH-DRM Net

FY 2016

April 2016	Participation in rescue activities for cultural heritage after the Kumamoto Earthquakes
June 30, 2016	Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net and the 4th Meeting of the Expert Committee of CH-DRM Net
July 18, 2016	Special Lecture, “Considering Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness Together With History” (Kyushu National Museum)
September 2016	Participation in Salvage Operations for Cultural Properties in Iwate Prefecture after Typhoon Lionrock (Dindo)
November 12, 2016	Symposium, “Protecting Cultural Heritage from Disaster 2: Current Risk—Disaster and Cultural Heritage in Kansai (Keihanna Open Innovation Center @Kyoto (KICK))
November 29, 2016	5th Meeting of the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net and 5th Meeting of the Expert Committee of CH-DRM Net
December 4, 2016	Public Symposium, “Considering Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness with the Community III :Kumamoto Earthquakes and Cultural Heritage Rescue” (Kyushu National Museum)
December 13–14, 2016	3rd National Historical Materials Networks Conference (Ehime)
January 24–25, 2017	National Task Force for CH-DRM Net Training (Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)
March 18, 2017	“International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation: How Can We Protect Cultural Heritage from Large Scale Disasters—The Potential of Blue Shield, II” (Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties)

FY 2017

May 24, 2017	6th Meeting of the Executive Committee of CH-DRM Net and 6th Meeting of the Expert Committee of CH-DRM Net
July 5, 2017	Symposium for Exhibition at Parea Axia, “The Role of Museums During Large-Scale Disasters” (Kumamoto Prefecture Community Center Parea)
September 16, 2017	The UNESCO Chair Programme International Training Course on “Cultural Heritage and Risk Management” International Symposium, “Working Internationally toward the Integrated Protection of Cultural Heritage from Disasters” (Ritsumeikan University)

*In addition, at the time of natural disasters, the Task Force quickly ascertains disaster conditions, shares information, conducts surveys, and makes recommendations as necessary (i.e., torrential rains in Kanto and Tohoku in September 2015; Kumamoto Earthquakes in April 2016; Typhoon Lionrock in August 2016; torrential rains in northern Kyushu in July 2017).

Overview

Name

National Task Force for the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (CH-DRM Net), Japan
Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network, Japan

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Founded: July 2014

Source of Funding

Agency for Cultural Affairs: Grants-in-Aid for Promotion of Culture and Arts
(Project to Support Art Museums and History Museums in Priority Areas)

Organization

Headquarters of the National Task Force for the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network
Seven institutions comprising the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage
Executive Committee of the Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Mitigation Network (Participating Organizations)

List of Participating Organizations

National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (an Independent Administrative Institution)
National Museum of Art (an Independent Administrative Institution)
National Museum of Nature and Science (an Independent Administrative Institution)
National Institutes for the Humanities (an Inter-University Research Institute Corporation)
National Diet Library
National Archives of Japan (an Incorporated Administrative Agency)
Japanese Association of Museums (a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation)
Japan Library Association (a Public Interest Incorporated Association)
Japanese Council of Science Museums
Japan Society for the Conservation of Cultural Property (a General Incorporated Association)
Japanese Archaeological Association (a General Incorporated Association)
Japan Society for Scientific Studies on Cultural Properties
The Japan Council of Art Museums
The Japan Society of Archives Institutions
The Japan University Museology Course Council
Miyagi Shiryounet (Network for Preserving Historical Materials) (a Specified Nonprofit Corporation)
Rekishishiryo-net (Network for Historical Materials)
Natural History Museum Network of Western Japan (a Specified Nonprofit Corporation)
National Council of History and Folk Museums
The University Museums Council
Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research (a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation)
Japan Conservation Project (a Specified Nonprofit Corporation)
The Society for MINGU of Japan
Kyushu and Yamaguchi Museum Partnership Committee

(24 organizations as of November 2017)